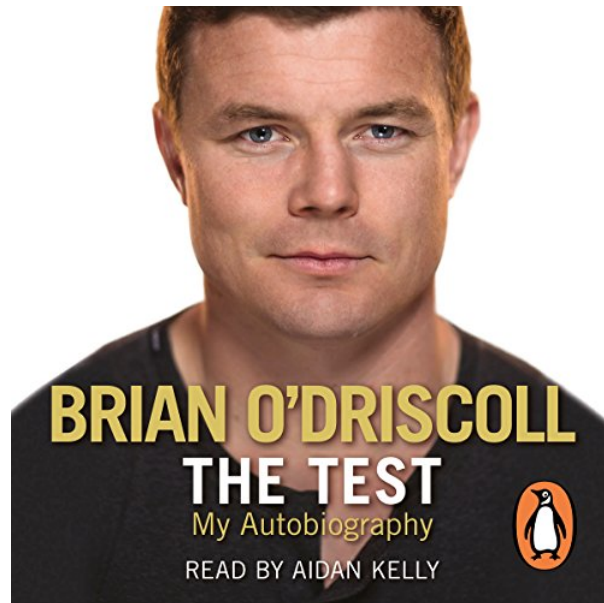
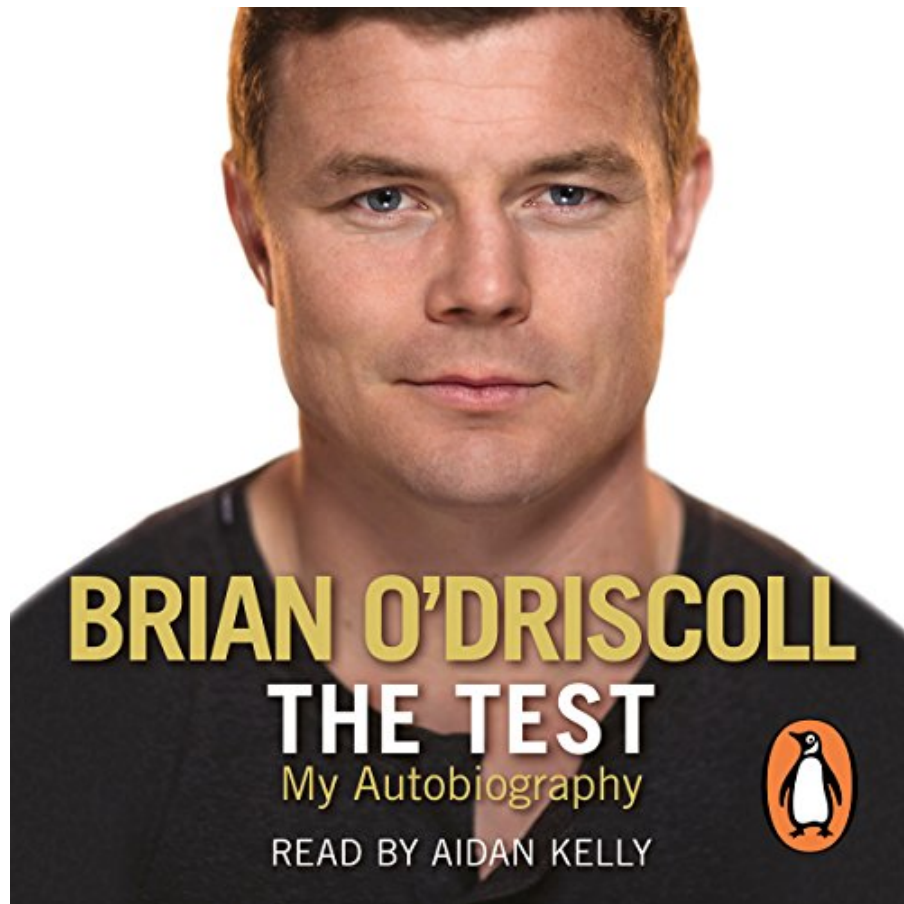


THE TEST: MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY BRIAN O'DRISCOLL



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THE TEST: MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY BRIAN O'DRISCOLL PDF

Penguin presents the unabridged, downloadable audiobook edition of *The Test*, the stunning autobiography from rugby legend Brian O'Driscoll, read by Aidan Kelly.

Between 1999, when he made his international debut, and his retirement in 2014, there was no greater player in world rugby than Brian O'Driscoll.

In 2010 *Rugby World* magazine named him its world player of the decade - and since then the legend has only grown. Along the way he was tested - by personal loss, off-the-field pressures, and career-threatening injuries.

The Test is a book about how he took on those challenges - how a world-class talent developed a world-class work ethic and temperament. As he lost his youthful pace, O'Driscoll's reinvented himself as a player, revealing the remarkable character and drive behind the glittering gifts. In the latter years of his career, he put in a sequence of gladiatorial performances that etched themselves into the minds of every rugby fan every bit as indelibly as the legendary early tries in Paris and Brisbane.

Honest, gritty, and thoughtful, *The Test* is not just an essential sports book. It is an essential book about family, friends, hard work, courage, and imagination.

- Sales Rank: #112415 in Audible
- Published on: 2015-04-02
- Released on: 2015-04-02
- Format: Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Running time: 629 minutes

Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

An Easy Test

By JohnCarr

I assume that the vast majority of potential readers of "The Test" will know who Brian O'Driscoll is and what he achieved. If you don't he's simply one of the greatest rugby players who ever lived.

He begins with an account of his last game for Leinster, the victory in the 2014 Pro12 Grand Final where he had to go off early after injury. He then goes back to his childhood and works forward in chronological fashion to what I suspect was for him his "real" last game, the win for Ireland in France to seal the Six Nations Championship.

For most of the book I thought that the play that would receive most analysis was his account of how he engineered his first meeting with his future wife but as he recounts in vivid detail those final few minutes in

Paris as we – I'm Irish – hung on for dear life it was like being in front of the TV with the outcome still in doubt.

A recurring criticism amongst who have given the book a low rating is that it is boring, that it lacks revelations or recriminations.

Well, may I ask what you expected to see in a Brian O'Driscoll autobiography? Sydney Opera House, perhaps? The Hanging Gardens of Babylon? Herds of wildebeest sweeping majestically...?

It's a bit like criticising a vegetarian cookbook for its lack of meat recipes.

What controversies are there to cover? Him being on the receiving end of that spear tackle? Him being dropped for the one and only time in a 15 year career? An opposing team's ineffectually cheating in "Bloodgate"? The treatment he received at the hands of England in the Grand Slam year? (I was at that match and how he picked himself up time and again I do not know). He covers them all with the class we've rightly come to expect of him.

This is a guy with an extraordinary talent who comes from a good family, who married the only girlfriend he ever lived with, who never changed clubs and who never seems to have had a major falling out with a coach or teammate.

The two main revelations in the book are non-rugby related, how he was affected by the unexplained suicide of a close friend and how he spent a night in custody in New York when, needless to say, he'd done nothing wrong.

The book has an index that comes in handy and avoids the need for a glossary of nicknames with such entries as "'Dreamboat' see Kearney, Dave".

How to rate the book? Unlike the man himself it's no five star masterpiece. Through no fault of his own his life lacks "Sturm und Drang". If I'd no interest in rugby but had been asked to review the book I'd have given it a three. But for fifteen years I, like millions of others, had the pleasure of watching a sporting genius with the heart of a lion, a nice guy who finished first more often than not but who, whether he met with triumph or disaster, treated those two imposters just the same.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Emotional Read

By Bernard H

BOD is a legend!

I don't understand why I'm being asked for an extra sixteen words, seems a bit unnecessary!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Champion

By Pauline Cunningham

A thoroughly good read which shows Brian in his true form... a dedicated, determined, tough, selfless team player who has given new meaning to the word legend. It has been an honour to watch him with Leinster, Ireland and The Lions and to have witnessed his undisputed and unmatched skills over the years. In this book he details many of his major and some minor matches. He was a worldclass captain admired and feared in equal measure on match day by his opponents and whilst some did their best or should I say their worst to take him out of the game he doesn't badmouth or rant over these incidents. He comes across as very decent, unassuming and respectful...a true example to every young person starting out in life....sporting or otherwisePauline (Cavan)

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